

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-03 SAM-01 NSC-05 OPR-02 PA-01

SS-15 SY-05 USIA-06 PRS-01 A-01 EB-07 COME-00 FEA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /063 W
----- 105001

R 091148Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9656

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OVIP, NI

SUBJ: MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER PERMSEC ASIODU

1. PHILIP C. ASIODU, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE NIGERIAN MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER, WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE LAGOS JUNE 7 FOR A VISIT OF APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS TO THE UNITED STATES.
2. APPARENTLY HE IS FLYING DIRECTLY TO DENVER TO PRESENT A PAPER TO A CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO DR. ARMAND HAMMMER, CHAIRMAN OF OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM (SEPTTEL), AND ASIODU WILL THEN BE PICKED UP BY ONE OF OXY'S PLANES AND FLOWN TO RIFLE, COLORADO, TO VISIT OXY'S PROTOTYPE PLANT FOR PROCESSING SHALE OIL.
3. EMBASSY HAS NOT LEARNED ASIODU'S SUBSEQUENT PLANS EXCEPT THAT ON JUNE 17 HE IS SCHEDULED TO SPEAK TO THE NIGERIAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK CITY.
4. COMMENT: ASIODU HAS VISITED U.S. IN PAST ON VACATION AND FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND HE MAY WISH TO MINIMIZE BUSINESS CONTACTS ON THE PRESENT TRIP. HE DID NOT INFORM THE EMBASSY ABOUT IT. DEPARTMENT MIGHT OBTAIN DETAILS OF HIS ITINERARY FROM NIGERIAN EMBASSY AND/OR N-ACOFCE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WEINSTEIN OR PRESIDENT GARBARINO (212/692-3202). EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING WHAT ASIODU DOES IN U.S. AND LEARNING WHAT HE SAYS

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IN DENVER AND NEW YORK.

5. FYI: ASIODU'S ROLE IN NIGERIAN ENERGY POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION IS AN ENIGMATIC AS EVER. SO LONG AS HE IS PERMSEC (AND CHAIRMAN OF NNOC), HE SEEMS AS POWERFUL AS EVER (WITNESS THE RECENT DEMISE OF THE TWO MOST RESPONSIBLE MANAGERS OF NNO--LAGOS 4823). BUT IN FEBRUARY HE LOST THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRIC POWER AUTHORITY (NEPA), AND FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS HAS APPARENTLY HAD NO DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR OPEC MEETING), AND HIS PRESENT TRIP PRECLUDES HIS PARTICIPATION IN AT LEAST TWO OTHER EVENTS--FESTIVITIES MARKIH THE FIRST NNOC OIL PRODUCTION (WITH ASHLAND) JUNE 6-7 AND THE VISIT TO NIGERIA IMMEDIATLY AFTER THE OPEC MINISTERIAL OF OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL FEYIDE. END FYI.

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